

CDA® State Fact Sheet ILLINOIS



CDA® Credentials Awarded
Illinois: **34,000***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Illinois:

Infant-Toddler **11,592*** | Preschool **17,655*** |
Family Child Care **4,175*** | Home Visitor **578***

*Data since inception of the Council +/- .4% margin of error

Partnership

- The **Illinois Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in the Department of Human Services and is overseen by the Division of Family and Community Services, Child Care. The Office is dedicated to creating and enhancing partnerships at the federal, state, and local levels that successfully meet the early care and education, family support, health, and community building needs of low-income Illinois families with young children. A priority area for the Head Start Collaboration Office is to work with local partners such as institutions of higher education and professional organizations such as the Council for Professional Recognition to assist in the development of and support for high quality career development opportunities for early childhood educators.

CDA® Training

- **National CDA Training – Illinois:** National CDA Training provides Infant-Toddler CDA and Preschool CDA training using a scenario-based method. National CDA Training also offers training for the Infant-Toddler CDA and Preschool CDA renewals.
- **ProSolutions Training – Illinois:** ProSolutions offers online training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, Family Child Care CDA, and Home Visitor CDA, and online CDA Renewal Training.
- **Successful Solutions Professional Development CDA Training:** Successful Solutions offers two Online Training Delivery Methods: self-study and Virtual Classroom. **Illinois** Child Care Courses Options include CDA Credential, CDA Competency, and CDA Renewal training.
- **Care Courses – Illinois CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.

- **ChildCare Education Institute:** The Institute's CDA Program offers online distance learning coursework to meet the CDA Credential content area training requirements.
- **The Academy at NHSA:** National Head Start Association, offers comprehensive courses that fulfill the necessary criteria for Center-Based Infant & Toddler and Preschool, Family Child Care, and Home Visiting CDA certifications.

State Scholarship Opportunities

- **Gateways Scholarship Program:** The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies administers the Gateways to Opportunity® Illinois Professional Development System, through which the Gateways Scholarship is available. The Scholarship Program will pay eligible recipients' tuition for college credit coursework toward an early childhood education credential such as the CDA® Credential.

Meet: Jarrell Harris – Illinois

Jarrell knows the power of role models for kids—especially young boys. “A lot of the boys I teach are considered troubled students, but they’re being misjudged. So, it’s important to get to know their backgrounds and build relationships with them. You need to inspire them to develop in ways they never dreamed of before.” Jarrell knows these boys can do more than people expect—because he did. “I come from a very rough background and was raised by a single mom.” Yet he now has his own early childhood program—something he never imagined he could do when he first went to work as an assistant teacher.

The warm response he received from the kids led him to take steps to launch his education in ECE. “I earned my Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential™,” he says. “And having a CDA not only made me more competent; it also advanced my career. In a few years, I become a lead teacher and earned my associate degree.” He went on to earn his BA and devote himself to children who face challenges in life. “I want them to know they have the power to rock the world. Kids can achieve much more than you think.”

What is the CDA®?

The Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education (ECE) and is a key stepping-stone on the path of career advancement in ECE. The CDA credential is based on a core set of competency standards, which guide early care professionals as they work toward becoming qualified teachers of young children. The Council works to ensure that the nationally transferable CDA is a credible and valid credential, recognized by the profession as a vital part of professional development.

CDAs have knowledge of how to put the CDA Competency Standards into practice and understanding of why those standards help children move with success from one developmental stage to another. Put simply, CDAs know how to nurture the emotional, physical, intellectual, and social development of children.

Earning the CDA credential has many advantages, including exposure to the larger community of early childhood educators. **Close to one million CDA credentials have been issued to date!**

Becoming a CDA is a big commitment, but one that creates confident practitioners with command of today's best practices for teaching young children.



Meet the Council

The Council for Professional Recognition promotes improved performance and recognition of professionals in the early childhood education of children ages birth to 5 years old. The Council recognizes and credentials professionals who work in all types of early care and education settings including Head Start, pre-k, infant and toddler, family child care, and home visitor programs. As a nonprofit organization, the Council sets policies and procedures for assessment and credentialing. For more information, visit www.cdacouncil.org.